Alongside prophylaxis and habitat management, conservation biological control is one of the 3 pillars of agroecological crop protection. It includes measures to preserve the natural enemies of crop pests, preventing their destruction by other crop practices.

Conservation biological control (preservation and enhancement of the role of native auxiliary organisms) is fully consistent with other biological control techniques: importation or classical biological control (introduction of exotic auxiliaries) and augmentation biological control (increase of auxiliary numbers through flood release or biological treatments).

Conservation biological control relies on 3 techniques:

1. the cessation, as far as possible, of insecticide treatments and herbicides in orchards;
2. the improvement of plant biodiversity in orchards, creating habitats which discourage pests and/or encourage beneficials: permanent plant cover on the ground, plants traps for pests, shelter plants for auxiliaries (e.g. flower strips);
3. the adaptation of cropping practices to help the agronomic management of habitats.